REMARKS

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-15, 17-18, 20, 22-29, 31-32, 34, 36-43, and 46 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-10, 13, 15, 17-18, 20, 22-24, 27, 29, 31-32, 34, 36-38, 41, 43, and 46; and cancelled claims 2, 5, 7, 16, 19, 21, 30, 33, 35, and 44-45. No claims have been added in this Amendment. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 are the only independent claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action mailed May 6, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. With respect to claims 37-40, the Examiner noted that the limitation "configuration manager" lacks antecedent basis. With respect to claim 39, the Examiner noted that the limitation "configuration manager of claim 28" lacks antecedent basis. In response, the Applicant has amended claims 37-40 to provide antecedent basis to the noted limitations. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-10, 14-16, 19-24, 28-30, 33-38, and 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,591,306 issued to Redlich ("Redlich") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,208 issued to Rai et al. ("Rai"). The Applicant believes that the claimed invention is patentable over Redlich and Rai and has amended independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 to more clearly define thereover.

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The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of its cancelled dependent claims 2, 5, and 7 and other limitations. Similarly, the Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to include the limitations of its cancelled dependent claims 16, 19, and 21 (which correspond to claims 2, 5, and 7) and other limitations; and has amended independent claim 29 to include the limitations of its cancelled dependent claims 30, 33, and 35 (which correspond to claims 2, 5, and 7) and other limitations. The Applicant has amended independent claim 43 to include the limitations of its cancelled dependent claims 44-45 and other limitations.

1.   The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1, is a method for providing connectivity to a foreign network for a device having network settings configured for communication over a home network without reconfiguring the network settings of the device. Amended independent claims 15 and 29 respectively recite an apparatus and a configuration adapter for carrying out the method recited in amended independent claim 1. Amended independent claim 43 recites an associated method.

As recited in representative amended independent claim 1, the method includes intercepting packets transmitted by the device. The intercepted packets which are incompatible with network settings configured for communication over the foreign network are selectively modified to be compatible with the network settings configured for communication over the foreign network. The network settings configured for communication over the home and foreign networks include respective IP addresses, gateway addresses, subnet masks, DNS addresses, and protocol proxies. Network services corresponding to network services available on the home network are then selectively provided for the device to reduce delay associated with accessing the network

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services from the foreign network, or to provide network services otherwise inaccessible from the foreign network.

Selectively providing network services includes providing a proxy service which includes resolving a domain name to an address. Resolving a domain name to an address includes establishing a connection between the device and a configuration adapter in order to intercept packets transmitted by the device; examining contents of the intercepted packets to identify a domain name; resolving the domain name to an address; establishing a connection between the configuration adapter and a computer at the address corresponding to the domain name; and splicing the connections between the device and the configuration adapter, and between the configuration adapter and the computer, to form a single connection between the device and the computer such that the device and the computer communicate packets with each other over the single connection without the network settings of the device being reconfigured.

2.   Redlich and Rai

The Examiner posited that Redlich discloses a method, apparatus, and configuration adapter for providing connectivity to a foreign network for a device configured for communication over a home network without reconfiguring the device.

The Examiner further posited that Redlich discloses:

intercepting packets transmitted by the device (intercepting packets; col. 1, lines 16-27; col. 5, line 39-67; col. 6, lines 1-27; col. 17, lines 31-64);

selectively modifying intercepted packets which are incompatible with the foreign network to be compatible with network settings of the foreign network (modifying the intercepted packets; col. 17, lines 14-39); and

selectively providing network services for the device corresponding to network services available on the home network (providing network services, such as ARP; col. 17, lines 49-64; col. 18, lines 6-41).

The Examiner indicated that Redlich does not expressly disclose to reduce delay associated with accessing network services from the foreign network, or to provide network services otherwise inaccessible from the foreign network. The Examiner posited that Rai discloses accessing the network services from a foreign network (col. 6, lines 40-67; col. 7, lines 36-65; col. 16, lines 15-65).

With respect to dependent claims 2, 16, and 30, the Examiner posited that Redlich discloses selectively providing network services comprises providing a proxy service (providing proxy services; col. 17, lines 49-64).

With respect to dependent claims 5, 19, and 33, the Examiner posited that Redlich discloses that providing a proxy service comprises resolving a domain name to an address (using ARP to resolve a domain name to an address; col. 6, lines 54-67; col. 7, lines 45-67; col. 18, lines 6-41).

With respect to dependent claims 7, 21, and 35, the Examiner posited that Redlich discloses that resolving a domain name to an address comprises:

establishing a connection between the device and a configuration adapter (col 17, lines 14-19);

examining contents of the intercepted packets to identify a domain name (col. 18, lines 57-67; col. 19, lines 1-16);

resolving the domain name to an address (col. 19, lines 16-30);

establishing a connection between the configuration adapter and the computer at the address corresponding to the domain name (col. 19, lines 16-30); and

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splicing the connections between the device and the configuration adapter and between the configuration adapter and the computer, to form a single connection between the device and the computer (directly connecting the device and the computer at the address corresponding to the domain name; col. 20, lines 1-21).

3.   The Claimed Invention Compared to Redlich and Rai

The claimed invention generally differs from any combination of Redlich and Rai in that the claimed invention selectively modifies packets transmitted by a device having network settings configured for communication over a home network to be compatible with the network settings configured for communication over a foreign network, in which both network settings include respective IP addresses, gateway addresses, subnet masks, DNS addresses, and protocol proxies; and provides a proxy service which resolves a domain name to an address by examining the packets to identify and resolve the domain name to the address, establishing a connection between a configuration adapter and a computer at the address corresponding to the domain name, and splicing connections between the device and the configuration adapter and between the configuration adapter and the computer to form a single connection between the device and the computer such that the device and the computer communicate packets with each other over the single connection without the network settings of the device being reconfigured.

Redlich does not teach or suggest selectively modifying packets transmitted by a device having network settings configured for communication over a home network to be compatible with the network settings configured for communication over a foreign network, in which both network settings include respective IP addresses, gateway addresses, subnet masks, DNS addresses, and protocol proxies. In contrast, Redlich teaches translating an IP address of a packet to a hardware address (col. 17, lines 14-39).

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Accordingly, the Applicant believes that amended independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Redlich and Rai. Claims 6, 8-10, 14, 20, 22-24, 28, 34, 36-38, and 46 depend from one of amended independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 and include the limitations therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1, 6, 8-10, 14-15, 20, 22-24, 28-29, 34, 36-38, 43, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Redlich and Rai.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 11, 17-18, 31-32, 39, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redlich in view of Rai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,680 issued to Yeomans et al. ("Yeomans"). Claims 3-4, 11, 17-18, 31-32, 39, and 42 depend from one of the amended independent claims and include the limitations therein. Thus, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 3-4, 11, 17-18, 31-32, 39, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner rejected claims 12, 26, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redlich in view of Rai in view of Yeomans and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,739 issued to Flemings et al. Claims 12, 26, and 40 depend from one of the amended independent claims and include the limitations therein. Thus, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 12, 26, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner rejected claims 13, 27, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redlich in view of Rai in view of Yeomans in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,526 issued to Waskiewicz. Claims 13, 27, and 41 depend from one of the amended independent claims and include the limitations therein. Thus, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 13, 27, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
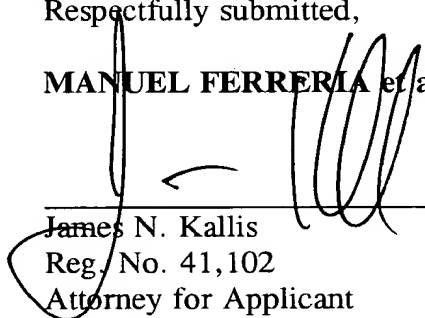
CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-15, 17-18, 20, 22-29, 31-32, 34, 36-43, and 46, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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